A.—(*a*) Yes.

(*b*)

			Vizagapatam.	Ganjam.
1923	...	...	1,625	202
1924	...	...	1,888	Figures not available.
1925	...	...	2,029	1,536
1926	...	...	2,232	2,993
1927	...	...	2,760	5,055

(*c*) Information is not available.

(*d*) Wages vary—an adult male can earn 8 annas a day of 8 hours on the average; during the plucking season both men and women can earn a rupee a day and more.

(*e*) Each estate has its own hospital under an Indian doctor—groups of estates are supervised by qualified European Medical officer. As regards sanitation every effort is made to get the coolies to adopt improved methods.

(*f*) The Government have no information.

(*g*) The hon. Member's attention is invited to the answer given to question No. 1278.

Pensions

Enhancement of pensions to retired public servants.

* 1464 *Q.*—Mr. K. R. Karant : Will the hon. the Member for Finance be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Local Government have received any proposals to enhance the pensions payable to retired public servants; if so, what they are;

(*b*) if so, to what classes of public servants they are applicable;

(*c*) from what date they will take effect; and

(*d*) what will be the extra cost to the Government per annum?

A.—(*a*) No.

(*b*), (*c*) & (*d*) Questions do not arise.

Municipal Councils

Suspension of the Municipality of Cochin.

* 1465 *Q.*—Mr. J. A. Saldanha : Will the hon. the Minister for Education and Local Self-Government be pleased to refer to the answer to my question No. 1019 answered on 1st November 1927 and to state—

(*a*) whether the period of suspension of the Municipality of Cochin has been extended and, if so, for what period and for what reasons;

(*b*) whether the municipal area has been reconstituted into new wards, and, if so, from how many into what number and for what reasons;

(*c*) whether this proposed change has been made with a view to give a majority to the partisans of the European merchants at Cochin;

(*d*) whether the local authority (the Revenue Subdivisional Officer) has submitted a list of citizens of Cochin for being nominated as members of the new Municipal Council, not on the basis of representation of minorities or communities not likely to get into the Council by election, but on the basis of their partisanship with certain class interests; and

25th January 1928]

(*e*) whether the same officer attended a meeting of the Cochin Chamber of Commerce or its committee or a meeting of certain European merchants in which the future election campaign in their interests was discussed?

A.—(*a*) The period of supersession of the Cochin Municipal Council was extended from the 15th November 1927 to 10th January 1928, as it was not found possible to complete the elections to the reconstituted council before that date.

(*b*) The wards were revised. There is however no information of the reasons for or the result of the revision. The power of the Government in this regard has been delegated to Collectors.

(*c*) The Government have no reason to think so.

(*d*) No.

(*e*) The Government have no information on the point.

Industries

Application of Messrs. Abbas Magnesite Co. for State aid.

*1466 Q.—Mr. L. K. Tulasiram: Will the hon. the Minister for Development be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether an application was received from Messrs. Abbas Magnesite Company for State aid under the State Aid to Industries Act;

(*b*) if so, whether the State aid was granted to the applicants; and

(*c*) if not, what are the grounds on which State aid was refused to the firm?

A.—From a recent communication received from the Director of Industries the Government note that an application for the guarantee of an overdraft with the Imperial Bank of India to the extent of Rs. 6 lakhs was received by him from the Company and that at the meeting of the Board of Industries held on 9th December 1927, it was resolved by a majority to adjourn the consideration of the application until certain further information had been received.

Correspondence relating to the grant of State aid to Messrs. Abbas Magnesite Co.

*1467 Q.—Mr. L. K. Tulasiram: Will the hon. the Minister for Development be pleased to lay all the correspondence relating to the grant of State aid to Messrs. Abbas Magnesite Co. on the table of this House?

A.—The hon. Member's attention is invited to the answer to question No. 1466. The Government are not in possession of any other correspondence on the subject.

Registration

The new scheme of registration of holdings.

*1468 Q.—Mr. K. R. Karant: Will the hon. the Minister for Development be pleased—

(*a*) to place on the table of this House

(1) a description of the new scheme of registration of holdings referred to in the answer to question No. 962 answered on 31st October 1927;